

## CLAIMS

1. A method of implementing an idle mode on a computing device, the idle mode for presenting personal digital content on the computing device in a passive manner to an individual and allowing the individual to manage the presented content, the method comprising the idle mode upon being initiated:
  - selecting a collection of content to be serially presented;
  - ordering the selected collection of content based on an ordering criteria; and
  - presenting each piece of content in the collection in order for a predetermined period of time,the method further comprising, during the presenting of each piece of content in the collection:
  - awaiting a trigger from the individual at the computing device corresponding to an active form of managing the piece of content;
  - receiving such trigger from the individual;
  - receiving actively collected information corresponding to the trigger from the individual; and
  - storing the actively collected information.
2. The method of claim 1 comprising the idle mode receiving actively collected information corresponding to the trigger from the individual and comprising an annotation to be included with the piece of content.
3. The method of claim 2 comprising the idle mode receiving an annotation selected from a group consisting of a text annotation, an audible annotation, a visual annotation, an audio-visual annotation, and combinations thereof.

4. The method of claim 1 comprising the idle mode receiving actively collected information corresponding to the trigger from the individual and comprising a rating to be included with the piece of content.

5. The method of claim 4 comprising the idle mode receiving a rating selected from a group consisting of an incremental rating, a decremental rating, a direct rating, and combinations thereof.

6. The method of claim 1 comprising the idle mode receiving actively collected information corresponding to the trigger from the individual and comprising an organization of the piece of content.

7. The method of claim 6 comprising the idle mode receiving the organization of the piece of content selected from a group consisting of an organization of the piece of content within a directory-based system, an organization of the piece of content within a directed-graph-based system, and a combination thereof.

8. The method of claim 1 comprising the idle mode receiving actively collected information corresponding to the trigger from the individual and comprising a relation of the piece of content to other information.

9. The method of claim 8 comprising the idle mode receiving the relation of the piece of content selected from a group consisting of a relation to another piece of content, a relation to an application, a relation to information in a database, and combinations thereof.

10. The method of claim 8 comprising the idle mode receiving the relation of the piece of content to information in a personal organization database that maintains at least one of calendar information for the individual, personal

information for other individuals known to the individual, business information for businesses known to the individual, and membership information on memberships of the individual.

11. The method of claim 8 further comprising the idle mode upon receiving the relation creating a reference between the piece of content and the other information.

12. The method of claim 1 further comprising the idle mode detecting a trigger other than a trigger corresponding an active form of managing the piece of content and in response terminating such idle mode.

13. The method of claim 1 further comprising the idle mode during the presenting of each piece of content in the collection passively collecting information corresponding to the piece of content and storing the passively collected information.

14. The method of claim 13 comprising the idle mode passively collecting an annotation to be included with the piece of content.

15. The method of claim 13 comprising the idle mode passively collecting a rating to be included with the piece of content.

16. The method of claim 15 comprising the idle mode passively collecting a rating derived based on other actively collected information received from the individual.

17. The method of claim 13 comprising the idle mode passively collecting an organization of the piece of content.

18. The method of claim 13 comprising the idle mode passively collecting a relation of the piece of content to other information.

19. The method of claim 18 comprising the idle mode passively collecting a relation based on other actively collected information received from the individual.

20. The method of claim 1 further comprising initiating the idle mode by one of a command from the individual and a period of inactivity.

21. The method of claim 1 comprising selecting the collection of content to be serially presented from content available on the computing device.

22. The method of claim 1 wherein at least some of the pieces of content have a corresponding rating, the method comprising the idle mode ordering the selected collection of content based on the rating of each piece of content.

23. The method of claim 22 comprising the idle mode ordering the selected collection of content based on the rating of each piece of content from highest to lowest.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein at least some of the pieces of content have no corresponding rating, the method comprising the idle mode ordering the selected collection of content based on the rating of each rated piece of content from highest to lowest with non-rated pieces of content interleaved therebetween.

25. The method of claim 1 comprising the idle mode awaiting and receiving a trigger selected from a group consisting of a keyboard entry on the computing device, a mouse entry on the computing device, an audible signal at

the computing device detected by the idle mode, a visual signal at the computing device detected by the idle mode, and combinations thereof.

26. The method of claim 25 comprising the idle mode awaiting and receiving a trigger selected from a group consisting of an audible signal at the computing device detected by the idle mode and a visual signal at the computing device, and further comprising the idle mode recognizing the individual by way of the trigger and storing with the information an identification of the recognized individual.

27. The method of claim 1 comprising the idle mode receiving the actively collected information as information selected from a group consisting of text information, audible information, visual information, audio-visual information, and combinations thereof.

28. The method of claim 1 further comprising the idle mode including the collected information in a future presentation of the piece of content.

29. The method of claim 1 further comprising the idle mode selecting a future collection of content to be serially presented based at least in part on the collected information.